



Wednesday, March 4, 2015

House Budget & Research Office  
(404) 656-5050

House Communications Office  
(404) 656-0305

- The House will reconvene for its 27th Legislative Day on Thursday, March 5 at 10:00 a.m.
- The Rules committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.
- Nine bills are expected to be debated on the floor.

## Today on the Floor

### Rules Calendar

#### **HB 275 Income tax; claimant agency; revise definition**

Bill Summary: HB 275 adds the Georgia Lottery Commission to the list of state agencies that are able to access the setoff debt program for funds owed to them from retailers of lottery items.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brian Strickland (111th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 168 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

#### **HB 276 Alcoholic beverages; modernize certain terms; provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 276 is a cleanup bill regarding the alcoholic beverage Code. The bill removes undefined terms, more logically sorts sections within Title 3, removes unconstitutional provisions, and defines industry terms within the Code.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brett Harrell (106th)  
**House Committee:** Regulated Industries

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 158 Nays: 5

**Amendments:**

#### **HB 312 Tobacco products; manufacturers and importers; remove certain bonding requirements**

Bill Summary: HB 312 removes the bond requirement for tobacco manufacturers and importers, but retains the bond requirement for distributors.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jan Tankersley (160th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 169 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

#### **HB 339 Income tax credit; film, video or digital production; extend**

Bill Summary: HB 339 is a three-year extension to the Qualified Interactive Gaming tax credit. The legislation also requires certain reporting requirements to be delivered to the chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jon Burns (159th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 161 Nays: 0

**Amendments:**

**HB 348 Labor; create State Workforce Development Board; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 348 moves the State Workforce Board from the Department of Labor to the Department of Economic Development.

**Authored By:** Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)

**House Committee:** Industry and Labor

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 160 Nays: 7

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured

**Committee** 02-26-2015 Do Pass

**Action:**

**Amendments:**

**HB 412 Workers' compensation; change certain provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 412 addresses concerns that were raised by an appellate case, *Pitts v. City of Atlanta*. The bill uses the same language as the exclusive remedy provision of the Occupational Disease statute within the 'Worker's Compensation Act' to clarify that the exclusive remedy is, indeed exclusive, unless the employer expressly agrees to an exception in writing; although, general contractual provisions will not have the employer inadvertently provide such exception.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mark Hamilton (24th)

**House Committee:** Industry and Labor

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 167 Nays: 0

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Committee** 02-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee

**Action:** Substitute

**Amendments:**

**HR 395 Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee; create**

Bill Summary: This resolution creates the Joint Georgia-Alabama Study Committee to formalize a working partnership to promote solutions to regional issues. The committee sunsets on December 1, 2016.

**Authored By:** Rep. Gerald Greene (151st)

**House Committee:** Interstate Cooperation

**Floor Vote:** Yeas: 164 Nays: 2

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open

**Committee** 03-02-2015 Do Pass

**Action:**

**Amendments:**

## **Next on the Floor from the Committee on Rules**

*The Committee on Rules has fixed the calendar for the 27th Legislative Day, Thursday, March 5, and bills may be called at the pleasure of the Speaker. The Rules Committee will next meet on Thursday, March 5, at 9:00 a.m., to set the Rules Calendar for the 28th Legislative Day.*

### **HB 170 Transportation Funding Act of 2015; enact**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 170 provides for the elimination of the state sales tax on motor fuels and moves to a flat excise rate. Local option sales taxes that do not expire will no longer be levied on motor fuels but will move to a rate of 1.25 percent after July 1, 2016. For Special Purpose Local Option Sales Taxes, the rate will remain at one percent and will continue to be levied on motor fuels. If reauthorized by voters upon expiration, the revenue generated from local taxes on motor fuels will be required to be used on transportation purposes. This legislation also requires that the board of the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank give greater consideration for Tier One and Tier Two counties when determining eligibility for loans and financial assistance.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jay Roberts (155th)  
**House Committee:** Transportation

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-02-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HB 200 Income tax credit; change amount of credit for electric vehicle chargers; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** This legislation amends the electric vehicle charging station tax credit to allow for a business involved in the ownership or operation of commercial office, residential retail, or industrial real property. Additionally, until June 30, 2018 the credit would be adjusted to 20 percent of the value of the charger or \$2,500, whichever is less. From July 2, 2018 through June 30, 2020 the value of the credit would be 10 percent of the charger or \$2,500, whichever is less.

**Authored By:** Rep. Don Parsons (44th)  
**House Committee:** Ways & Means

**Rule Applied:** Structured  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HB 213 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965; permanent suspension of restrictions on use of sales and use tax proceeds upon submission of an independent management audit to certain officials; provide**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 213 removes from the 'MARTA Act' the 50/50 restriction on proceeds. In the event the authority fails to file with the governor, state auditor, and chair of the MARTOC committee a report of findings of an independent management audit every four years, then for the four years period following the year when the audit report was due but not submitted, the 50/50 restriction resumes.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th)  
**House Committee:** Transportation

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-19-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HB 214 Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965; restoration of voting privileges to Commissioner of Department of Transportation until 2017; provide**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 214 amends the 'MARTA Act' by: adding the executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority as a voting member until December 31, 2016; staggers terms for new board members appointed by a local governing body after entering into an agreement with the authority; changes "bidding"/"bidder" language to "procurement"/"respondent"; requires the management audit to include the auditor's recommendations and signed written verification that the authority full cooperated with the audit; gives provisions for suspensions and civil penalties for violations of Board rules and regulations, as well as appeals procedures; and requires those entering into a contract to charge a one percent sales tax.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Jacobs (80th)  
**House Committee:** Transportation

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-19-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 328 Adult offenders; enact reforms recommended by Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform**

Bill Summary: HB 328 modifies the 'Fair Business Practices Act of 1975' by adding a section to regulate "consumer reporting agencies," those persons or entities that assemble or evaluate consumer information to provide third parties with a "consumer report" used to evaluate the consumer's fitness for insurance, credit, or employment.

The bill requires consumer reporting agencies to notify consumers when their public record information is provided to a third party, along with the name and address of the receiving party, or to maintain strict procedures to ensure the accuracy of any information that is likely to adversely affect the consumers' ability to obtain employment.

Any consumer reporting agency providing information to a third party domiciled or having a principle place of business within the state will be considered to be conducting business in the state.

HB 328 allows parole eligibility for inmates required to serve their entire sentence under the repeat offender statute who are serving a sentence of 12 years up to life and meet certain requirements. Requirements for the inmate include: no conviction of certain felonies which are violent in nature, weapons-related or result in registration as a sex offender; completion of at least 12 years of the sentence; determination by the Department of Corrections to have low-risk for recidivism; classification as medium risk (or less) for institutional housing purposes; no serious disciplinary infractions for 12 months prior to consideration; and obtained a high school diploma or GED.

The bill allows drug court diversion program participants to receive a probationary professional or business license when the applicant submits an application for licensure or renewal and proof of program completion. This amendment does not preclude the board from considering convictions other than the conviction that resulted in the assignment to the drug court.

The bill adjusts the public assistance fraud statute, clarifying that the statute is not gender specific by adding "or she" after "he" where it is appropriate. The amendment also raises the threshold for felony fraud from \$500 to \$1,500.

Code sections referencing the "Georgia Public Defender Standards Council" are amended by striking "Standards" thus changing the name to "Georgia Public Defender Council."

The bill removes language that required the council to select their director on the basis of training and experience. The bill also strikes language that gave the director the power to: take action necessary to perform indigent defense services, enforce rules and regulations necessary to perform indigent defense services, carry into effect the minimum standards promulgated by the council, and to perform functions and duties that the council is authorized to perform under O.C.G.A. Â§ 17-12-4. The director is also prohibited from representing any indigent person or engaging in the private practice of law for profit.

The director is no longer required to submit procedures he or she develops for the council's approval. Also, the director is no longer required to consult with professionals about implementing and improving indigent services programs. Finally, this bill requires the director to "hire or remove" directors for the offices of mental health advocacy and the Georgia capital defender.

HB 328 gives the council the authority to assist public defenders instead of requiring them to do so. Similarly, the bill allows, instead of requires, the council to keep and publish statistics to evaluate the delivery of indigent defense in Georgia. The council is required to meet at least semi-annually instead of quarterly under the bill.

The bill strikes the Code section that required the council to approve programs for representation of indigent persons. Language is also stricken from the Code that required policies and standards promulgated by the council to be publicly available on the council's website.

HB 328 changes the reporting requirements of the council and director. Instead of requiring an annual report of the council's expenditures and revenue, such report is only required "upon request." The same

change is made regarding reports by the director assessing the delivery of indigent defense in Georgia.

The legislative committee providing oversight of the council is only required to meet once, instead of three times, each year. Also, this legislative oversight committee is no longer required to submit an annual report of its activities and findings.

When a public defender is replaced due to a conflict of interest, this bill strikes language that required the replacing attorney to have the training and experience that the complexity of the case requires. Language is also stricken that required such attorney to meet standards established by the council.

Instead of requiring a public defender to represent any juvenile case where there is a possibility of confinement, commitment or probation, this bill only requires representation in juvenile delinquency cases.

Circuit public defenders are no longer required to establish a special juvenile defense division. The bill also strikes language that entitled a person arrested or served with any initiating process to the services of public defense council within three business days.

Current law allows a city or county to contract with circuit public defenders to provide indigent defense to people accused with violating ordinances or state laws. This bill strikes language that subjects the city and county to policies adopted by the council if they do not contract with the circuit public defenders.

This bill strikes language enumerating the specific types of records that the public defenders are required to keep. Instead, the public defenders are required to keep records "as requested by the council."

Current law allows a single county judicial circuit to, upon approval by the council, establish an alternative system of delivering indigent defense services. If the council disapproves, this bill allows the system to appeal that disapproval to the council instead of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The governing authority within a judicial circuit is still required to provide the public defender with the name and identifying information of each person who applies and is eligible for legal services; however, such authority is no longer required to submit that information within one day of the defendant's application.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Efration (104th)  
**House Committee:** Judiciary Non-Civil

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-02-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### **HB 366 Employment of minors; issuance of employment certificates; change certain provisions**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 366 allows the parents of home-schooled children to sign off on applications for employment certificates for minor children. Under current law, these parents must use an administrator from the public high school for which their child is districted to sign. It further provides that documents relating to the employment of minors as actors or performers shall be exempt from open records requests.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brian Strickland (111th)  
**House Committee:** Industry and Labor

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

#### **HB 368 Construction; glass installations; repeal and reserve Part 5 of said article**

**Bill Summary:** House Bill 368 repeals the Code requirement for the Department of Insurance to regulate commercial glass installation because the process is regulated by federal regulation.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brian Strickland (111th)  
**House Committee:** Industry and Labor

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Open  
**Committee Action:** 02-26-2015 Do Pass

**HB 372 Utopian Academy for the Arts Act; enact**

Bill Summary: House Bill 372, the 'Utopian Academy for the Arts Act,' would prohibit municipalities, counties, or any other subdivision of the state from requiring charter schools, which have passed the Department of Education facility inspection and hold a valid certificate of occupancy, to obtain any additional license to operate.

**Authored By:** Rep. Christian Coomer (14th)  
**House Committee:** Education

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-02-2015 Do Pass

**HB 504 Health; vaccination against meningococcal disease of college students; revise provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 504 requires newly admitted students who wish to live in a university's on-campus housing to receive a vaccination against meningococcal disease at most five years prior to admittance into such university. Additionally, HB 504 allows pharmacists to administer vaccines provided they have entered into a vaccine protocol agreement with a physician. Further, the pharmacist must complete 20 hours of education and training in the basics of immunology. The pharmacist must also provide the patient with a card containing information about the vaccine administered and the pharmacist must notify the patient's physician within 72 hours of administering the vaccine. Finally, under HB 504, the pharmacist is required to maintain individual liability insurance coverage and provide proof of such coverage to the physician.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Rule Applied:** Modified-Structured  
**Committee Action:** 03-02-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Committee Actions

*Bills passing committees are reported to the Clerk's Office and are placed on the General Calendar.*

### Appropriations Committee

#### **HB 279 Public officers and employees; annual salaries of Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals, superior court judges and district attorneys; repeal provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 279 provides for state salary supplements for specified judges of the superior courts, specified district attorneys, and specified circuit public defenders and revises the annual salaries for each Justice of the Supreme Court and each Judge of the Court of Appeals. Those superior court judges receiving a county salary supplement of less than \$30,000 as of February 15, 2015 shall receive a state salary supplement equal to the difference between the judge's county salary supplement and \$30,000. Those superior court judges regularly presiding in a drug court division, mental health court division, or veterans court division accountability court shall receive a state salary supplement of \$6,000. Those district attorneys receiving a county salary supplement of less than \$15,000 as of February 15, 2015 shall receive a state salary supplement equal to the difference between the district attorney's county salary supplement and \$15,000. Those circuit public defenders receiving a county salary supplement of less than \$15,000 as of February 15, 2015 shall receive a state salary supplement equal to the difference between the circuit public defender's county salary supplement and \$15,000. The bill also states that state salary supplements shall not be included when a local law provides for a salary to be based on a percentage of a superior court judge's salary, district attorney's salary, or a circuit public defender's salary. The Justices of the Supreme Court salaries are increased to \$179,210 and the Judges of the Court of Appeals salaries are increased to \$178,186. If funds are appropriated, all state salary supplements and salary enhancements are effective January 1, 2016.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jay Powell (171st)  
**House Committee:** Appropriations

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### Code Revision Committee

#### **HB 541 Eminent domain; telephone companies; actual recurring local service revenues; specify accounts or portions thereof considered to be included**

**Bill Summary:** HB 541 brings references to federal regulations up to date in Code Section 46-5-1, which relates to exercise of power of eminent domain by telephone companies; placement of posts and other fixtures; regulation of construction of fixtures, posts, and wires near railroad tracks; liability of telephone companies for damages; required information; and due compensation.

**Authored By:** Rep. Timothy Barr (103rd)  
**House Committee:** Code Revision

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

### Economic Development & Tourism Committee

#### **HB 510 Georgia Sports Commission Fund; create; provisions**

**Bill Summary:** HB 510 amends Chapter 34 of Title 50 to provide for the creation of the Georgia Sports Commission Fund. More specifically, the bill allows any registered sporting commission to apply for and receive grants from the Georgia Sports Commission Fund for expenses related to the registered commission's sporting activity. The bill permits the Georgia Sports Commission Fund to receive funding from any source allowable by law except for funding from settlements involving lawsuits against tobacco companies. The bill also outlines the fund's accounting procedures and procedures for the appointment of the fund's committee.

**Authored By:** Rep. Ron Stephens (164th)  
**House Committee:** Economic Development & Tourism  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

## Education Committee

### **HB 209 Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act; prior school year attendance requirement to prior semester; revise**

Bill Summary: House Bill 209 would amend the Special Needs Scholarship to require specific written notice of the options available under the scholarship to parents of children with a Individualized Education Program annually.

**Authored By:** Rep. Wesley Cantrell (22nd)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HB 313 Public employees; limited paid leave for purpose of promoting education; authorize**

Bill Summary: House Bill 313 gives full-time, non-temporary employees of the State of Georgia or any branch, department, board, bureau, or commission of the state the right to apply for up to eight hours of paid leave per calendar year in order to promote education in Georgia.

**Authored By:** Rep. Robert Dickey (140th)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 401 Early care and learning; revise terminology relating to restrictions on persons with criminal records with regard to child, family or group-care facilities; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 401 updates and revises Code relating to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. This legislation makes administrative changes to improve the efficiency, operations, and communication between the department and child care providers.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chuck Efstoration (104th)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

### **HB 414 Education; collection and disclosure of student data; establish and implement policies and requirements**

Bill Summary: House Bill 414, the 'Student Data Privacy, Accessibility, and Transparency Act,' creates the Chief Privacy Officer position at the Department of Education. This bill requires the Department of Education to create a centralized data system that would be available to students and their parents, authorized staff, and authorized teachers and administrators. The bill allows parents the right to review their child's education record including the student data recorded. Local boards' decisions could also be appealed to the local school superintendent. This bill would also prohibit operators of applications, websites, or services that are marketed or designed for K-12 educational purposes from using any students' personally identifiable information for behaviorally targeted advertising, sale, or to build a specific student profile. The Act becomes effective on July 1, 2016.

**Authored By:** Rep. Buzz Brockway (102nd)  
**House Committee:** Education  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

### **HB 474 Charter schools; enrollment priorities for educationally disadvantaged students and military students; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 474 allows start-up charter schools, conversion charter schools, and state



chartered special schools to give preference, in the event of a lottery for admission, to educationally disadvantaged students or students with a parent who is active-duty military. Educationally disadvantaged students would include students who are economically disadvantaged, have a disability, are migrant, have limited English proficiency, are neglected or delinquent, or are homeless.

**Authored By:** Rep. Margaret Kaiser (59th)

**House** Education

**Committee:**

**Committee**

**Action:**

03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
Substitute

## **HB 502 Elementary and secondary education; update and clarify provisions and repeal obsolete provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 502 repeals, amends, and revises Title 20:

§1. Repeals subsection (d) of Code Section 20-2-51. Subsection (d) prohibits any county board of education member in a county with a population between 500,000 and 600,000, according to most recent census data, from holding another elective government office.

§1A. Changes the title of status quo school systems currently in law and replaces it with electing not to request increased flexibility pursuant to this article.

§1B. Changes the title of IE2 school systems to strategic school systems.

§2. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-82 by removing the ability of the State Board to offer waivers of teacher evaluations for local school systems, as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.

§2A. Changes the title of IE2 school systems to strategic school systems.

§3. §4. Clarifies that the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§5. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-140.1 by adding that students can register for online learning through the clearing-house established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-319.3.

§6. Revises language reflecting content standards, deletes language such as competencies and core curriculum.

§7. Clarifies the state mandates content standards and makes first grade readiness report by the State School Superintendent optional instead of mandatory.

§8. Clarifies that the state mandates content standards and repeals language regarding the middle grades program.

§9. §10. §11. §12. Revises language reflecting content standards, deletes language such as competencies and core curriculum.

§13. §14. §15. §16. Repeals all language pertaining to the middle grades program.

§17. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§18. Amends Code §20-2-205 to require all virtual school teachers, including out of state, to get certified by the Professional Standards Commission if they provide instruction to public schools in GA.

§19. Amends Code §20-2-241 allowing the State School Superintendent to authorize the CFO to enter into contracts of \$50,000 or less on behalf of DOE.

§20. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§21. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-82 by removing the ability of the State Board to offer waivers of teacher evaluations for local school systems, as defined in O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.

§22. Adds a new Code section, §20-2-244.1 which sets out definitions for students, substantial hardship, variance, and waiver. This Code section also outlines the authority of the State Board of Education to grant waivers and variances.

§23. Amends subsection (b) of O.C.G.A. 20-2-260 relating to capital outlay by including expenditures for computer equipment and software that is necessary to implement curriculum, instruction, or administration. This section also defines "local school system" as any entity defined by DOE as an LEA.

§24. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§25. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-281 as it relates to assessments. Writing performance shall be assessed, at a minimum, for students in grades 5, 8, and 11, but additional grades levels may be designated by the State Board of Education. The state board will develop or adopt an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities pursuant to Code Section 20-2-140. Deletes outdated language in section (k)(2). Allows kindergarten teachers the opportunity to participate in a staff development program regarding tests.

Changes the grade levels that students take end-of-course assessments for English, language arts/reading and math from grades 3-8 to grades 1-8. Adds end-of-course assessments for science and socials studies for grades 3-8. Revised language from 'tests' to 'instruments'. Amends section (c) to clarify that State Board of Education has the authority to condition the awarding of high school diploma on end-of-course assessments. Allows the State Board of Education to consider an approved COMPASS score when considering a waiver for the high school graduation test. Deletes language referencing the High School Graduation Test.

§26. Deletes language that was specific to the middle school program as both the middle school program and middle grades program are being funded in the same category now. Allows 'satisfactory business experience' to be considered as a minimum qualification for the school administrative manager position.

§27. Reflecting the Executive Order by the Governor in 2013 to move the Governor's Honors Program to the Office of Student Achievement.

§28. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§29. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-315 by making the publication and distribution of the GaDOE annual report regarding expenditures and participation for each gender optional.

§30. O.C.G.A. is amended to reflect current funding. Private and home-schooled students may enroll at no cost if appropriations are provided. If appropriations are not provided they may enroll at a cost not to exceed \$250 per semester. Local systems are responsible for paying for their enrolled students, and if that student enrolls in more than the maximum number of courses, then the student is subject to the cost of tuition not to exceed \$250 per semester.

§31. & §32. Eliminate duplicate language from two online clearing-house bills passing in the same year.

§33. Repealing and reserving O.C.G.A. 20-2-319.5, which required the DOE to submit a report by 12/1/12, identifying the best methods and strategies to assist local boards of education in acquiring digital learning.

§34. & §35. Clarifies the state mandates content standards, not curriculum.

§36. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-690, which would require the declaration of intent to utilize the home study program to also include the local school system in which the home study program is located.

§37. & §38. If local employers do not contribute their share to the health insurance fund, the State Board of Education will only withhold enough funds to pay the obligation, rather than withholding all the funds. Those funds will be transmitted to the Department of Community Health.

§39. Currently, the local board has until April 15th to serve a teacher with a nonrenewal notice and teachers have until May 1st to inform the local board of their intentions not to renew. This section extends those deadlines from April 15th to May 15th and from May 1st to June 1st.

§40. This section amends O.C.G.A. to give the State Board of Education the authority to affirm, reverse, remand, or refer to mediation a local board tribunal decision that has been appealed to the state board.

§41. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2065 so that charter schools cannot waive the teacher performance evaluation provisions of O.C.G.A. 20-2-210.

§42. Amends O.C.G.A. 20-2-2067.1 to change the date that charter schools are required to submit their annual report detailing progress.

§43. Revises O.C.G.A. 20-2-2084 by increasing the time frame a local board has to approve or deny a charter school petition to 90 days. A local board currently has 60 days to approve or deny a petition.

§44. Clarifies 5 mil share deduction for virtual / state-charter schools is in proportion to the initial funding received. This interpretation has already been funded in the Governor's AFY14, FY15, and FY16 budgets.

§45. Repeals an obsolete population bill.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Dudgeon (25th)  
**House** Education  
**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

## Governmental Affairs Committee

### HB 358 Legislative Oversight Committee for State Contracts; establish

Bill Summary: House Bill 358 relates to the organization of the executive branch generally, so as to

establish the Legislative Oversight Committee for State Contracts. The Legislative Oversight Committee shall be composed of six persons: three members of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party appointed by the Speaker of the House, and three members member of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party appointed by the President of the Senate.

**Authored By:** Rep. Lee Hawkins (27th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 385 Health records; determining annual cost adjustment for providing medical records from Office of Planning and Budget to Department of Community Health; move responsibility**

Bill Summary: House Bill 385 amends the Official Code of Georgia, relating to costs of copying and mailing medical records and patient's rights to those records. The bill moves the responsibility for determining the annual cost of adjustment for providing medical records from the Office of Planning and Budget to the Department of Community Health.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 386 Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation; Chapter 12 of Title 32; repeal**

Bill Summary: House Bill 386 repeals Chapter 12 of Title 32, which relates to the Georgia Coordinating Committee for Rural and Human Services Transportation.

**Authored By:** Rep. Chad Nimmer (178th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 476 Fulton County Industrial District; repeal amendment; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 476 repeals the amendment to the Constitution of Georgia that created the Fulton County Industrial District within Fulton County and prohibits the governing authority of Fulton County from levying any tax for educational purposes within such district. This is a companion bill to the legislation creating the city of South Fulton.

**Authored By:** Rep. Virgil Fludd (64th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 514 South Fulton, City of; Fulton County; incorporate**

Bill Summary: House Bill 514 creates the city of South Fulton.

**Authored By:** Rep. Roger Bruce (61st)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 515 Tucker, City of; DeKalb County; incorporate**

Bill Summary: House Bill 515 authorizes a referendum to create the city of Tucker.

**Authored By:** Rep. Billy Mitchell (88th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs  
**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 520 LaVista Hills, City of; DeKalb County; incorporate**

Bill Summary: House Bill 520 authorizes a referendum to create the city of LaVista Hills.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tom Taylor (79th)  
**House Committee:** Governmental Affairs

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**Health & Human Services Committee****HB 505 Physical therapists; licensure and regulations of therapists and therapy assistants; revise various provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 505 revises the definition of physical therapy. Additionally, under HB 505, the State Board of Physical Therapy has the power to refuse to grant or restore a physical therapist's license or to discipline a physical therapist if he or she: identifies himself or herself as a doctor without also informing the public of his or her credentials as a physical therapist; performs physical therapy without first examining and evaluating the patient; or acts in a manner inconsistent with the standard of the practice of physical therapy.

**Authored By:** Rep. Sharon Cooper (43rd)  
**House Committee:** Health & Human Services

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**Human Relations & Aging Committee****HB 512 Mental health; governing and regulation; change certain terminology and provisions**

Bill Summary: This agency bill was brought forward by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to address the internal governance of the agency by reorganizing the current regional-based administrative structure with a combination of localized and centralized changes to improve the ability of the state office and local providers to ensure quality care is available to the entire state. The substantive changes in the bill move various regional administrative functions to the central office and reform the regional bodies towards providing an advisory rather than an administrative function.

**Authored By:** Rep. Rick Jasperse (11th)  
**House Committee:** Human Relations & Aging

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HR 474 House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care; create**

Bill Summary: This resolution creates the House Study Committee on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Kinship Care and provides for its charge, membership, compensation, and duration.

**Authored By:** Rep. Stacey Abrams (89th)  
**House Committee:** Human Relations & Aging

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**Insurance Committee****HB 439 Georgia New Markets Jobs Act; enact**

Bill Summary: House Bill 439 creates the 'Georgia New Market Jobs Act,' which allows insurance companies to make investments in qualified small businesses in low-income communities.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jason Shaw (176th)  
**House Committee:** Insurance

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Interstate Cooperation Committee

### HB 540 Interstate cooperation; Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee and House Committee on Interstate Cooperation; clarify number of members

Bill Summary: This bill clarifies the number of members of the Senate Interstate Cooperation Committee and the House Committee on Interstate Cooperation.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Matt Dollar (45th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Interstate Cooperation		

## Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Committee

### HB 516 Effingham County School District; board of education; change compensation for members

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act to reconstitute the Board of Education for the Effingham County School District, so as to change the compensation for the members.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Bill Hitchens (161st)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

### HB 518 Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority; selection of members; revise manner

Bill Summary: A Bill to amend an Act creating the Satilla Regional Water and Sewer Authority, so as to revise the manner of selection of the members of authority.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. John Corbett (174th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

### HB 521 Fulton County; ad valorem tax; exemption amount to \$60,000 after two-year phase-in period; increase

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from Fulton County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$15,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of that county, so as to increase the exemption amount to \$60,000.00 after a two-year phase-in period.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Brad Raffensperger (50th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

### HB 522 Fulton County; homestead exemption to \$30,000 after a two-year phase in for certain residents 70 or older; change

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a homestead exemption from Fulton County ad valorem taxes for county purposes in the amount of \$30,000.00 of the assessed value of the homestead after a two-year phase in for certain residents of the county who are 70 years of age or older.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Brad Raffensperger (50th)	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local		

### HB 526 Talbotton, City of; Talbot County; reincorporate

Bill Summary: A Bill to reincorporate the City of Talbotton in Talbot County, so as to provide a new charter.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Debbie Buckner (137th)		
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<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass
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**HB 528 Chickamauga, City of; city manager and chief of police; revise duties and responsibilities**

Bill Summary: A Bill to provide a new charter for the City of Chickamauga, so as to revise the duties and responsibilities of the city manager and the chief of police.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Steve Tarvin (2nd)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Intragovernmental Coordination - Local	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass

**Judiciary Non-Civil Committee****HB 72 Crimes and offenses; protection of disabled adults and elder persons; expand and clarify**

Bill Summary: This bill expands and clarifies certain measures designed to protect disabled adults and elderly persons. The most substantial change being the inclusion of "investment companies" and their employees as mandatory reporters for suspected abuse or exploitation of the elderly. The second major change authorizes the Commissioner of Community Health (or his designee) to request a warrant to make inspections.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Wendell Willard (51st)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 182 Motor vehicles; acquisition of evidence; clarify provisions**

Bill Summary: This bill modifies the Code with regard to the "implied consent notice" for motorists suspected of driving under the influence by removing the word "admission" from that subsection so that failure to give the implied consent notice will not preclude the acquisition of evidence, but may preclude the admission of such evidence. Additionally, the bill clarifies that even if the implied consent notice is not given, evidence may be acquired from a driver involved in a traffic accident with seriously injuries or fatalities if that person refused to submit to a chemical test upon request, and the evidence was obtained by a search warrant.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Ed Setzler (35th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 196 Criminal procedure; reversal on appeal when a judge expresses an opinion regarding proof in a criminal case or as to accused's guilt; change provisions**

Bill Summary: This bill adds to, clarifies, and revises provisions related to judicial conduct during criminal trials. This bill makes it an error for any judge to express to the jury his/her opinion regarding whether facts have been stipulated. The bill also changes the remedy for such a violation. Previously, the law required the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals to reverse the case and grant a new trial. This bill puts the onus on the objecting party. The party alleging a violation must make a contemporaneous objection and inform the court of the grounds for the objection. Failure to make this objection precludes appellate review unless it constitutes plain error in which case it may be considered on appeal. Upon objection, the trial court must give curative instructions to the jury if they find that the provisions of the bill have been violated.

<b>Authored By:</b>	Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)		
<b>House Committee:</b>	Judiciary Non-Civil	<b>Committee Action:</b>	03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 280 State Sexual Offender Registry; individual convicted of trafficking a person for sexual servitude; require registration**

Bill Summary: This bill adds trafficking a person for sexual servitude as a crime requiring registration on the State Sex Offender Registry to incorporate. The bill also declares any violation of the State Sexual Offender Registry section to be a continuous crime and expands venue to any county where the sex offender is required to register, the accused failed to comply with the Code, or any county where the offender provides false information.

**Authored By:** Rep. Albert Reeves (34th)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

**HB 375 Motor vehicles; driving with suspended, canceled, or revoked registration; change provisions relating to plea of nolo contendere**

Bill Summary: This legislation allows a driver cited for driving a motor vehicle with a suspended, cancelled, or revoked vehicle license to plead nolo contendere. The nolo plea can only be used once within a five year period, measured from date of the last previous offense resulting in a conviction or a nolo plea. Any other nolo plea within the time period will constitute a conviction.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jay Powell (171st)  
**House** Judiciary Non-Civil  
**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-04-2015 Do Pass  
**Action:**

**Juvenile Justice Committee****HB 229 Domestic relations; grandparent rights to visitation and intervention to great-grandparents and siblings of parents; expand**

Bill Summary: HB 229 expands the grandparent's visitation statute to include great-grandparents, aunts and uncles. A great-grandparent, aunt or uncle may seek visitation rights when a child custody case has gone before a court or in cases where the parents are no longer living together. In order to be eligible for visitation rights, a great-grandparent, aunt or uncle must prove that the health and welfare of a child will be harmed without such visitation and that the visitation is in the best interest of the child.

**Authored By:** Rep. Brian Strickland (111th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-04-2015 Do NOT Pass  
**Action:**

**HB 263 Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; advisory board to the council for juvenile justice issues; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 263 implements the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Coordinating council regarding the Juvenile code, family violence shelters, and social services. The changes allow the Criminal Justice Coordinating council to receive and distribute grants from the federal Department of Justice.

**Authored By:** Rep. Christian Coomer (14th)  
**House** Juvenile Justice  
**Committee:**

**Committee** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee  
**Action:** Substitute

**HB 264 Juvenile Code; voluntary acknowledgements of legitimation; repeal**

Bill Summary: HB 264 revises the definition of legal father in the Juvenile Code, and makes some grammatical corrections to provide consistency within the Code. The administrative legitimation as a means of defining legal father is removed. The bill also clarifies the language whereby only a

biological father may legitimate his child, and also what is required in that petition. The bill adds a provision allowing the court to insure that the petitioning alleged biological father is in fact the biological father and my order genetic testing. The Code is further refined so that the hospital in which a child is born must provide paternity acknowledgement forms prior to the birth of the child rather than after. The bill adds a requirement that the hospital provide the mother and the alleged father with the opportunity to execute a voluntary acknowledgement of paternity within 30 days of birth. Acknowledgement of paternity shall constitute a legal determination of paternity, if sworn to and signed in the presence of a notary public or other witness.

**Authored By:** Rep. Regina Quick (117th)  
**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 361 Juvenile Code; enact reforms as recommended by Georgia Council on Criminal Justice reforms; provisions**

Bill Summary: HB 361 represents an on-going effort between the Criminal Justice Reform Council and all stakeholders to harmonize the new juvenile justice Code originally passed as HB 242 in 2013. Superior court judges are given explicit factors to consider for transferring cases to juvenile court. The bill also clarifies that 17-year olds, who are treated as adults for all other criminal offenses, will also be treated the same way for traffic offenses. Also, the Code is amended to clarify that district attorneys and general counsels for police departments are in fact authorized to file petitions in juvenile court for children in need of services.

**Authored By:** Rep. Andrew Welch (110th)  
**House Committee:** Juvenile Justice

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## State Properties Committee

**HB 50 State property; statues, monuments, plaques, banners, and other commemorative symbols; provide additional protection**

Bill Summary: HB 50 provides definitions for "Agency", "Monument", and "Officer", and amends Code Section 50-3-1 by removing the misdemeanor charge associated with any person or entity mutilating, defacing, defiling, or abusing any publicly owned monument, but makes that person or entity liable for the full cost of repair or replacement of the monument, as well as for the cost of any attorney's fees and court costs expended by the public entity owner of the monument in any proceedings necessary. This bill would also allow any person or entity adversely affected by the damage of a monument to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, or both. This bill would not apply to the owner of any private monuments, and would not prevent the relocation of any monuments due to construction or expansion of buildings or roads.

**Authored By:** Rep. Tommy Benton (31st)  
**House Committee:** State Properties

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 255 State purchasing; equal credits be given to certain forestry certification systems when using green building standards in state construction operation, repair, and renovation projects; require**

Bill Summary: HB 255 would require the state to use only those green building standards that give equal certification credits to Georgia forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the Forest Stewardship Council when using green building standards in any new construction, operation, repair, or renovation of any state building.

**Authored By:** Rep. Mike Cheokas (138th)  
**House Committee:** State Properties

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee



**HB 259 Georgia Business Act; enact**

Bill Summary: HB 259, known as the 'Georgia Business Act,' provides an exemption for certain automobiles manufactured in Georgia from competitive bidding procedures, as well as increases the exemption threshold for competitive bidding procedures from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

**Authored By:** Rep. Terry Rogers (10th)

**House Committee:** State Properties

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 341 Buildings and housing; certain qualified inspectors may be certified by Building Officials' Association of Georgia; provide**

Bill Summary: HB 341 amends the definition of "Qualified Inspector" regarding state buildings, plumbing, and electrical codes to include inspectors that have a certification from the Building Officials' Association of Georgia.

**Authored By:** Rep. Howard Maxwell (17th)

**House Committee:** State Properties

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**Transportation Committee****HB 21 Transit authority; creation of; metropolitan areas; repeal a population provision**

Bill Summary: House Bill 21 relates to the creation of the transit authority by special legislation and the authority's attributes and powers. Effective on July 1, 2015, whenever a transit authority or a county public transit provider is in operation within the territory delimited by the General Assembly of a new transit authority established under this Code section, an intergovernmental agreement shall be entered into between the transit authority or county public transit provider currently in operation.

**Authored By:** Rep. John Carson (46th)

**House Committee:** Transportation

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass

**HB 106 Highways; revise what constitutes part of the state highway system; provisions**

Bill Summary: House Bill 106 relates to highways, bridges, and ferries within the composition of the state highway system. No public road shall be designated as a part of the state highway interstate system unless it meets at least one of the following requirements: serves trips of substantial length and duration indicative of regional, state-wide, or interstate importance; connects adjoining county seats; connects urban or regional areas with outlying areas, both intrastate and interstate; or serves as part of the principal collector network for the state-wide and interstate arterial public road system.

In regard to the Department of Transportation procedure for the disposition of property, the department, a county, or a municipality, provided that such department, county, or municipality has held title to the property for no more than 30 years, shall notify the owner of such property at the time of its acquisition or if the tract has been sold, shall notify the owner of abutting land holding title through the owner from whom the department, a county, or a municipality acquired its property.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jay Roberts (155th)

**House Committee:** Transportation

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 174 Urban Redevelopment Law; include blighted areas; provisions**

Bill Summary: This bill removes "slum" from the Code relating to Urban Redevelopment law and applies that definition to a new term: "blighted" or "pockets of blight".

**Authored By:** Rep. LaDawn Jones (62nd)  
**House Committee:** Transportation

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

**HB 477 Abandoned public road property; notice and right to acquire when located within a subdivision; provide**

Bill Summary: House Bill 477 allows for notification about the sale of abandoned property to be given to the homeowner's association rather than each individual homeowner whose property borders the abandoned property. Additionally, the bill gives authority to new municipalities to maintain the county roads within the incorporated area unless another agreement exists between the city and the county.

**Authored By:** Rep. Jan Jones (47th)  
**House Committee:** Transportation

**Committee Action:** 03-04-2015 Do Pass by Committee Substitute

## Committee Meeting Schedule

*This meeting schedule is up to date at the time of this report, but meeting dates and times are subject to change.*

*To keep up with the latest schedule, please visit [www.house.ga.gov](http://www.house.ga.gov) and click on [Meetings Calendar](#).*

### Thursday, March 05, 2015

10:00 AM	<a href="#">FLOOR SESSION (LD 27)</a>	HOUSE CHAMBER
8:00 AM	<a href="#">REGULATED INDUSTRIES</a>	506 CLOB
8:00 AM	<a href="#">Environmental Quality Subcommittee of Natural Resources</a>	606 CLOB
9:00 AM	<a href="#">RULES</a>	341 CAP
12:00 PM	<a href="#">REAPPORTIONMENT</a>	506 CLOB
1:00 PM	<a href="#">STATE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS</a>	403 CAP
1:00 PM	<a href="#">INDUSTRY &amp; LABOR</a>	606 CLOB
1:30 PM	<a href="#">INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION</a>	403 CAP
2:00 PM	<a href="#">TRANSPORTATION</a>	506 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">State Government Administration Subcommittee of Governmental Affairs</a>	606 CLOB
2:00 PM	<a href="#">JUDICIARY CIVIL</a>	132 CAP
3:00 PM	<a href="#">WAYS AND MEANS</a>	606 CLOB
3:30 PM	<a href="#">Fleming Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil</a>	403 CAP
4:00 PM	<a href="#">Jacobs Subcommittee of Judiciary Civil</a>	132 CAP (or Upon Adjournment of Full Judiciary Civil)